March 4, 1971

Mr. W. C. Ballard
Sales Engineer, Utility Sales
Ontario District
Canadian Westinghouse Company Limited
840 York Mills Road
Don Mills, Ontario 404
Canada

Dear Mr. Ballard:

Your letter dated January 18, 1971 was forwarded to me for response because I have the responsibility for studying the Aroclor environmental pollution problem.

I wish to emphasize that the Aroclors are not highly toxic or hazardous materials, therefore, no precipitous actions are justified.

Some of the polychlorinated biphenyls in Aroclors have been found to be resistant to degradation therefore can persist in the environment for a long time. Some studies have shown that some species of wildlife, such as fish-eating birds, can accumulate these persistent materials in their bodies and eventually levels are reached which are high enough to affect the egg laying and reproduction process. This effect is similar to the one observed for DDT.

To avoid this material from building up in the environment every effort should be made to prevent Aroclors from entering any water disposal systems. In the event any spills occur the material should be quickly contained and segregated for disposal. Disposal is preferably accomplished by incineration at temperatures exceeding 1600° F. If no high temperature incinerator is available, an alternate mode of disposal is the use of a properly operated landfill not located near any water.

Aroclors have not been shown to be acutely toxic to humans. If any is spilled on the skin, the skin should be washed in

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the usual manner with a soap solution. I have enclosed copies of literature describing toxic properties and industrial hygiene practice recommended for handling Aroclors.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your inquiry. I hope this information is helpful to you and if I can be of further service, please let me know.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Control

/lse

Attachments

bcc: T. W. Oneson - Montreal

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